Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Community Cultural Development and Gaeltacht Affairs Strategic Policy Committee

2pm on 4th March 2026 Hybrid Meeting

Attendees - Elected Representatives:

Cllrs Ronan Moore (Chairperson), Helen Meyer, Maria White Yemi Adunuga and Yvonne Everard.

Attendees – Sectoral Representatives:

Lisa Rowntree

Officials Present:

Barry Lynch, Director of Services, Brian Hora, Senior Executive Officer Community, Maedhbh Rogan-McGann, County Librarian, Jamie Nolan, Climate Action Team

Apologies:

Cllr Emer Toibín, Paula McCabe, Ursula Ní Shionnain, Aishling Monaghan

and Gerardette Bailey County Arts Officer

1. To adopt minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2026.

Cllr Moore requested an amendment to the draft minutes to reflect the discussion regarding disentangling the Gaeltacht Strategy from the Rural Development Strategy following Ursula Ní Shionnain's presentation giving an overview of the Meath Gaeltacht.

Minutes were proposed by Cllr Meyer and seconded by Cllr Adenuga.

Matters arising.

B. Lynch advised copies of the Gaeltacht presentations received at the December meeting were circulated to the Chief Executive and the Management Team and that the Planning Department have been examining proposals in context of draft strategic issues papers for the next the County Development Plan.

2. Climate Action Team Presentation - Overview of Decarbonisation Zones in Meath

Jamie Nolan presented an Overview of Decarbonisation Zones in Meath. In his presentation he outlined Meath County Council's work on establishing Decarbonising Zones (DZs), a requirement of the National Climate Action Plan and the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act. The briefing explained the purpose of DZs as place-based areas where local authorities, communities, and businesses collaborate to reduce carbon emissions. Baseline Emissions Inventories for each of the nine DZs were presented, highlighting key emission sources and the need for tailored, zone-specific actions. Navan and Laytown–Bettystown were used as examples to demonstrate differences in emission profiles. The presentation also set out the timeline for developing DZ

Implementation Plans, establishing local taskforces, hosting a networking event in April, and progressing towards the implementation and annual reporting of climate actions. He responded to questions from Cllr Meyer on the upcoming networking event on 20th April, from Cllr Adunuga on strategies to work with business, school and community groups and Cllr Moore on identifying projects to reduce emissions and securing public buy in and support.

3. To approve Annual Work Plan for 2026

B. Hora presented the SPC Annual Work Plan for 2026. Key upcoming actions for 2026 were highlighted, including completion of the Local Sports Plan and Local Community Safety Plan, commencement of new strategic work on Inclusion & Disability and Migration & Integration, and continued management of major grant schemes and annual programmes such as Pride of Place, Age Friendly Meath, Arts and Library updates, Seachtain na Gaeilge, and Integration initiatives. Climate Action remains a standing agenda item to ensure alignment with local authority objectives. B Hora and B Lynch replied to questions from Cllr Adenuga on the Migration and Integration Strategy and integration Team videos; from Cllr Meyer on community granny schemes and Cllr Moore on the Inclusion and Disability Strategy and resources provided for in the Work Force Plan.

The Annual Work Plan was agreed and proposed by Cllr Meyer and seconded by Cllr Adenuga.

4. To approve Sports Bursary Programme Terms and Conditions

B. Hora presented the Sports Bursary Programme Terms and Conditions. Bhora and B Lynch responded to questions from Cllr Moore on the makeup of the Bursary Committee, Rowntree on clawback condition and Cllr Adenuga advertising and a review of the Scheme.

The scheme was agreed and proposed by Cllr Everard seconded by Cllr Adenuga.

5. Gaeltacht Scholarship Awards

M Rogan-McGann, County Librarian gave an update on the Gaeltacht Scholarship Awards

- 250 applications received
- 208 applications from non DEIS Schools and 42 from DEIS Schools
- €9,800 awarded
    - 28 nr €200 Scholarship to applicants from non DEIS Schools
    - 14 nr €300 Scholarship to applicants from DEIS Schools

M Rogan-McGann and B Lynch responded to question from Cllr White on the funding for the Gaeltacht Scholarship Awards and the costs of attending a Gaeltacht. Cllr White asked if the scheme can be revived in 2027.

6. Programme Updates

6.1 My Open Library Service Update My Open Library | Meath.ie

M Rogan-McGann, County Librarian gave an update on the My Open Library Service noting that it is now available in libraries in Enfield, Trim, Slane, Nobber and Kells and in 2025 had over 9,800 users of the service. She responded to questions from Cllr Meyer on how it works in practice and Cllr White how it is managed and possibility of installing Light Boxes in future.

7. Items referred from Full Council
8. AOB
    a. L Rowntree sought clarification timeline for community grant schemes.
    b. Agenda Items for next meeting
        - Community Grants 2026
        - Failte Ireland Festivals and Events Grants 2026
        - Arts Grants 2026
        - Briefing note on Migration and Integration Strategies
    c. Proposed schedule of meetings 2026
        - 29th April 2026 at 2pm
        - 23rd September 2026 at 2pm
        - 9th December 2026 at 2pm

That concluded the business of the meeting.